

## ART HISTORY CONCENTRATION

### **How to make the most out of your undergrad degree in Art History at UNCG**

1. Build an impressive academic record by keeping your G.P.A. up, especially in art history courses. Ideally, you want a 4.0 in art history courses, or as close to a 4.0 as possible.
2. Become competent in at least one foreign language. Start as early as possible on this goal. Most important languages for art history: German, French, Italian.
3. Get an internship either for the summer or during the school year or both.
  - Mint Museum, Charlotte
  - Reynolda House, Winston-Salem (Summer only)
  - Weatherspoon Art Museum
  - North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh
  - GreenHill Gallery, downtown Greensboro

All offer internships to undergraduate students. See below for how to apply.

4. Apply to honor societies and make your academic record attractive for UNCG and Art Department awards, like the Student Excellence Award for Juniors or Seniors (requirements listed at <http://honorscollege.uncg.edu/faculty/student-awards.htm>) and the Golden Chain Honor Society (information here <http://sa.uncg.edu/golden-chain/>). The Art Department offers annual scholarships, including The Dr. Elizabeth Jastrow Scholarship, specifically for art history majors.
5. Apply to one of the UNCG Honors Programs offered through Lloyd International Honors College. They offer both International Honors and Disciplinary Honors in Art, specifically. See their website at <http://honorscollege.uncg.edu/prospective/applying-admissions.htm>, check out the Art Department site for Disciplinary Honors and/or speak to the Honors Liaisons for the Art Department, Dr. Heather Holian (hlholian@uncg.edu)
6. Use your electives to strengthen your training and interests (good place to continue practicing your language skills).
7. To the best of your ability, follow the “Suggested Course Schedule for Art History Majors,” drawn up by UNCG art history faculty to help majors make the most of their UNCG education (see the Art Dept. website at <http://www.uncg.edu/art/undergraduate/history>). This plan encourages courses to be taken in order (lower division, then upper division) so that students are well-prepared for advanced work as upperclassmen.
8. Identify yourself as an art history major to your faculty, get to know them and let them get to know you. They are your best source of information, advice, and their letters of recommendation for you will be stronger if they can write with specific examples.
9. Join the Student Art League (SAL) so that you can meet other art historians and participate in art-related extracurricular activities. You may even want to consider becoming a SAL Board member to become more involved in the department.

10. In your Junior or Senior year try to attend or present at SECAC (Southeastern College Art Conference) or the Mint Museum Symposium in Charlotte, or work with an art history faculty member to present a paper at the UNCG Undergraduate Honors Symposium or Research EXPO held every Spring. This looks excellent on your resume and there is a cash prize available in some cases.

11. Seriously consider studying art history abroad for a summer, semester or year. This is an invaluable experience and looks wonderful on grad school applications! For the Art Department's program to Florence in even Summers see: <http://www.uncg.edu/art/students/italy>

For UNCG's other programs see the International Programs' website:  
[http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/sae/study\\_abroad\\_exchanges.html](http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/sae/study_abroad_exchanges.html)

### **How to get into graduate school in these competitive art fields**

- Again—G.P.A. is essential (3.5 or better)
- Complete at least one foreign language. (Two is rare, but even better!!!)
- Internships and study abroad experiences look great and separate you from your competition
- Submit an excellent writing sample with your application (see #8 above). This should be prepared in consultation with one of your recommenders.
- Prepare for the GRE
- Put your best academic self forward in letter of intent, have others read it, including a professor
- Cultivate (3) strong letters of recommendation from art history professors who can write informatively and positively about your academic work. This means taking multiple classes with a professor. Then, keep in touch with these recommenders!
- Build an impressive undergraduate record (see above)

### **How to select a graduate school**

- Consider what type or area of study you are interested in—find a school/professor with those strengths. The current College Art Association (CAA) Guide to Graduate Programs is an excellent resource. One copy may be found in Gatewood 139 (ask a secretary if you cannot find it).
- Consider whether you will pursue an M.A. or a Ph.D.
- Look into their qualifications regarding GPA, language, etc.
- Compare programs at similar schools of interest
- Consider your budget and/or how you want to pay for grad school and what funding is offered by the school you are considering
- Be practical and selective with your application dollar. Or in other words, apply to your “dream school,” but also apply to at least one school you feel confident you’ll be accepted to—and *want* to attend.

### **How to select and apply for a museum internship**

- It's never too early to start thinking about internships

- Consider your interests, goals and try to find a match if possible
- Consider whether the museum has a structured internship program or not, structured is usually preferable, but unstructured is better than none at all
- Be realistic and ambitious, apply many places
- Again, cultivate strong letters of recommendation from your professors
- Ask yourself, "Does it have to pay?" Many internships do not pay their interns, but you should think of this as an investment in your future. Paid internships are always the most competitive. Again, be realistic.
- Build in prestige as you go, but less (prestige) is still more than none (as in no internship). Meaning you can start in a local museum and set your sights higher the next year, perhaps something in the state or outside of NC.

Updated August 2014 by Dr. Heather Holian